What is claimed is:

1. A method for independent tool integration, comprising:

creating a tool definition file that defines tools, wherein the tools provide server filesets for installation on a server;

delivering the tool definition file to a directory on the server; and

executing a tool command against the tool definition file to integrate the tools.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes creating the tool definition file that defines single-system awareness tools.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes creating the tool definition file that defines multi-system awareness tools.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the executing step includes executing the tool command against the tool definition file to add new tools to the tool definition file.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the executing step includes executing the tool command against the tool definition file to modify old tools in the tool definition file.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering software product's tools to managed nodes.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the delivering the software product's tools to the managed nodes step includes:

copying or packaging the software product's tools into software depot directories;

providing agent filesets for installation on the managed nodes; and

using software distributor commands to distribute the agent filesets to the managed nodes.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising reinstalling the agent filesets on the managed nodes during update.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the delivering the software product's tools to the managed nodes step includes delivering the software product's tools to node groups.

1   10.   The method of claim 6, further comprising delivering a synchronization software in agent

2   configure filesets to facilitate communication between the server and the managed nodes.

3   11.   The method of claim 10, further comprising reinstalling the agent configure filesets into the

4   software depot directories on the server and on the managed nodes during update.

5   12.   An apparatus for independent tool integration, comprising:

6   a module for creating a tool definition file that defines tools, wherein the tools provide server

7   filesets for installation on a server;

8   a module for delivering the tool definition file to a directory on a server; and

9   a module for executing a tool command against the tool definition file to integrate the tools.

10   13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the module for executing the tool command adds new tools

11   to the tool definition file.

12   14.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the module for executing the tool command modifies old

13   tools in the tool definition file.

14   15.   The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a module for delivering software product's tools

15   to managed nodes.

16   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the module for delivering the software product's tools to

17   the managed nodes includes:

18   a module for copying or packaging the software product's tools into software depot directories;

19   agent filesets to be installed on the managed nodes; and

20   software distributor commands that distribute the agent filesets to the managed nodes.

21   17.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a module for reinstalling the agent filesets on the

22   managed nodes during update.

23   18.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a module for delivering a synchronization

24   software in agent configure filesets to facilitate communication between the server and the managed

25   nodes.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a module for reinstalling the agent configure

2 filesets into the software depot directories on the server and on the managed nodes during update.

3 20. A method for independent tool integration, comprising:

4 creating a tool definition file on a server that defines tools, wherein the tools provide server

5 filesets for installation on a server;

6 delivering the tool definition file to a directory on the server;

7 executing a tool command against the tool definition file to add new tools to the tool definition

8 file;

9 executing the tool command against the tool definition file to modify old tools in the tool

10 definition file; and

11 delivering software product's tools to software depot directories to be install on managed nodes

12 using software distributor commands.